II

BOROUGH OF BODMIN

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1971

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:-

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Reed, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector:

A. F. J. Webb, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Assistant Public Health Inspector:

P. J. Morris, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I am pleased to present my Annual Report for the Borough for 1971.

In 1961, the estimated mid-year population was 6,080. The figure for 1971 is 9,260, an increase of 50%. There are obvious signs of this larger population, notably in the new housing estates developed by the Council for both private and public ownership, and the growing activity on the Industrial Estate. These encouraging indications of the Borough's revival are a great credit to the Council and it's staff who have worked diligently to achieve this objective. It must be a disappointment to many that the management of the Town's affairs is soon to pass to a larger more widely based authority which may have differing objectives and incentives.

The growth of population has had it's less obvious signs, particularly in the increasing damands for services of all kinds - water supplies, sewerage and sewage disposal, refuse collection and disposal, school accommodation, distributive services and so on. Most of these have been fairly well met but some still lag behind the ideal provision. Sewage disposal still presents a serious problem, and there are still many families living in unsatisfactory conditions. The recent completion of two junior schools has reduced the serious overcrowding in schools, at least temporarily. Litter is increasing, probably as much associated with the greater number of vehicles passing through the Town as with the larger population.

This report is almost certainly the penultimate one, not only because of Local Government re-organisation, but also of the impending amalgamation of Health Services. The detailed provision of medical advice on the enviromental services to the new local authority has not yet been determined. Certainly there will be no Medical Officer of Health with security of tenure and certain statutory duties. In this event one would wish to see the establishment of Public Health departments quite separate from any other discipline, managed by a Public Health Inspector of Chief Officer status with direct responsibility to the new Authority, and upon whose shoulders at least some of the Medical Officer of Health's statutory responsibility could fall. The continuation of any form of combined officer of Public Health/Surveyor in a larger unit is to be discouraged. The enviromental problems of human 'progress' will undoubtedly increase, and with the completion of the M.5, probably sooner than we anticipate. It is important therefore, that these issues should be faced single-mindedly and not immersed in the problems of other departments.

In conculsion I should like to thank the members of the Council and staff for their help during the year, in particular Mr. Webb and Mr. Morris whose work is so closely associated with this report.

I beg to remain (at least for a year or more!)

Your obedient servant,

JOHN REED.

I GENERAL STATISTICS

Registrar General's estimate of mid year population		9,260
Area in acres		3,312
Number of inhabitated houses		2,792
Rateable value		£292,300
Product of new penny rate		£2,973
Comparability factors	Births	1.12
	Deaths	0.52

Vital Statistics

Live Births

Number of Registered Live Births, 1971

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	74	74	148
Illegitimate	8	6	14
Total	82	80	162

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	17.5
Comparable Birth Rate	19.6
Birth Rate England and Wales	16.0

Stillbirths

There were two female stillbirths registered during 1971.

Deaths

Number of Registered Deaths, 1971

Male	Female	Total
91	90	181

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	19.5
Comparable Death Rate	10.1
Death Rate England and Wales	11.6

Infant Deaths

Two male infant deaths, one legitimate, one illegitimate were recorded during the year.

Distribution of Deaths by cause, sex and age, 1971

Cause	Sex	0 - 14	14 - 24	24 - 34	34 - 44	44 - 54	54 - 64	64 - 74	74 & 75+	TOTAL
Heart Disease	M	-	-	1	-	2	4	10	13	30
	F	-	-	-	1	-	-	8	19	28
Cerebro Vascular Disease	M	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	5	9
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	15	18
Cancer	M	-	-	-	-	2	3	8	5	18
	F	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	6
Respiratory Disease	M	1	-	-	-	1	3	3	5	13
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	12	14
Accident	M	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	5
Other Causes	M	1	-	-	-	1	4	6	7	19
	F	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	15	19
Total	M	2	1	1	-	8	15	29	35	91
	F	-	-	-	2	-	4	18	66	90

II GENERAL PEOVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE

Hospitals The new out-patient department of the East Cornwall Hospital is now in operation. It was hoped that this would provide the necessary facilities for an Ante-natal and Gynaecological out-patients' service. As each difficulty for it's provision was overcome, a new one was discovered. The Hospital Management Committee are now awaiting the appointment of a Registrar by the Regional Hospital Board to enable the clinic to be held. In the meantime the patients who could attend the Bodmin Hospital must travel to St. Austell or Truro for their supervision.

There are no major changes in the Hospital serving the district during the year, other than the amalgamation of the two Hospital Management Committees.

County Council Services

Ambulance Service There were no major changes in the service based on the Main Ambulance Station in the Town. Adequate cover was provided.

Home Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting The attachment scheme whereby nurses work from the family doctors' surgeries appear to be working satisfactorily. Domiciliary midwifery has rapidly declined since the departments were opened at Penrice and Treliske Hospitals. Only 8 of 151 confinements were conducted in the patient's home.

Infant Welfare The clinic held in Narisa Hall continued to be well attended.

Vaccination and Immunisation There were no additions to the list of protective inoculations available at clinics, schools or surgeries. The list comprises diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, measles, B.C.G. (against tuberculosis) and German measles. Yellow fever vaccinations are available at the Health Area Officer, Truro. Routine smallpox vaccination in infancy is no longer recommended.

Screening Clinics Clinics for the early detection of cervical and breast cancer are held at the St. Lawrence's Hospital, and at surgeries.

School Health Service Routine examinations of entrants were not completed in the year because of severe overcrowding at the C.P. Infants' School, where lack of suitable accommodation for examination made it impossible for the work to be undertaken. Otherwise all routine school health works was completed. The physical state of pupils was on average very satisfactory.

Home Help Service, Mental Health and Welfare These are now part of the Social Services Department and no longer under the direct supervision of the County Health Department. Athelstan House is a County Council home for the elderly situated in the Priory Grounds.

Voluntary Agencies Family Planning clinics continued to be held at St. Lawrence's. 'Meals on Wheels' were provided by the W.R.V.S. A number of playgroups were available for pre-school children. The decision of the Council to provide a playgroup in the Priory Grounds was very welcome.

III SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supplies

Mr. Worraker, Chief Engineer to the North and Mid Cornwall Water Board reports as follows:-

Concern was felt about the yield of the De Lank source during a short dry spell in July. The flow of the river fell until it was just sufficient to maintain the statutory compensation water discharge. Timely rainfall restored the situation before it became necessary to apply for a 'Drought' Order authorising a reduction in the compensation discharge.

No major works affecting the Borough were undertaken during the year but housing development, especially at Cardell Road and Berrycoombe Road, necessitated the laying of considerable length of extension mains. Old and inadequate mains were replaced in Beacon Hill and Dennison Road.

The result of regular sampling indicates that a high standard of bacteroilogical purity is maintained.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The three sewage works continued to serve the Town, the oldest at Dragon Pits, continued to be overloaded. Consulting Engineers were instructed to formulate a scheme to increase the Town's sewage capacity and to terminate the use of the Dragon Pits works.

Sludge drying continued to present difficulties at Westheath and Scarletts Well, resulting in all sludge being removed by tanker.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Refuse continued to be disposed of at Conce Moor in conjunction with St. Austell Rural District Council. An order was placed for a new refuse vehicle for delivery early in 1972. A separate collection of paper and cardboard was made from business premises. Litter, particularly along the main highway with increased traffic, is becoming a growing problem.

Rodent Control

Routine inspections of both agricultural and non-agricultural premises totalled 1,703 and 54 complaints were investigated. There were 63 infestations of rats and two infestations of mice in non-agricultural premises. In agricultural premises there were two infestations of rats. There were no infestations of the sewer systems of the Town. Warfarin in a rusk base was used in all treatments.

Caravan Sites - Control of Development Act, 1960

The residential site at Dunmere with 19 permanent caravans was well maintained. In addition to this site there were five individual licences issued. Works of developing a new tourist site for 150 caravans commenced during the year and should be operating by next season.

Swimming Pool

A new filter and gas chlorination equipment were installed at the beginning of the year which greatly improved the water condition. Chlorine and pH tests were carried out three times a day and records were kept of each test. The changing rooms continued to be washed out three times a day, and the footbaths were similarly cleaned and refilled. No serious outbreaks of plantar warts or athletes foot were reported.

The pool continued to be extensively used by schools, clubs and the general public throughout the year.

Public Health Inspections

Summary of Visits

Meat Inspections	460
Housing	52
Food Establishments	464
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	244
Others	64
	1,284

IV FOOD AND DRUGS

There were 10 registered premises for the distribution of milk in 1971. Seventy two premises were registered as manufacturing, storing or selling food. Ice cream was sold from 22 registered premises all of which maintained a satisfactory standard. Ice cream from a complete cold pre-mix and water ices continued to be manufactured at one premises for sale in vans outside the Bodmin area. The premises were maintained in a satisfactory manner.

Condemned Food

The following items were surrendered voluntarily:-

120 packs of chestnuts
4,541 tins of various foodstuffs
3 pineapples
42 packs of various foodstuffs
4,508 lbs. cake mix
1,516 lbs. assorted frozen foods
16 lbs. bacon
18 boxes grapes
72 lbs. meat
120 packs of ice cream
45 dozen eggs

Imported Food

All imported foods entering Bodmin during 1971 were inspected at the ports of entry and so no inspections were carried out under the Imported Food Regulations, 1968.

Slaughter of Poultry

No premises were registered for the slaughter of poultry in Bodmin during 1971.

Slaughter of Animals and Meat Inspection

The two licenced slaughter houses continued to operate satisfactorily. All carcases including those slaughtered at St. Lawrence's Hospital were inspected. The analysis of inspections was as follows:-

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	418	6	648	622
Number inspected	418	6	648	622
All diseases except Cysticercosis and T.B.				
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	2	3
Carcases of which some part was condemned	97	-	22	24
Tuberculosis				
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part was condemned	-	-	-	7
Cysticercosis				
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part was condemned	3	-	-	-
Gross weight of meat condemned	2042	-	197	406

V. FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

The industrial development of the Town continued during the year. There were 48 inspections of factory premises carried out. There were four defects found, each one being remedied informally.

Summary of Inspections

Premises (1)	Number On Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	57	43	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises	2	2	-	-
TOTAL	62	48	-	-

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp. (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floor (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	4	-	-	-

VI HOUSING

Slum Clearance

No dwellings were demolished for slum clearance during the year.

Housing Development

(a) Council

Hillside Park - The Contract for 150 dwellings proceeded and by the end of December 130 had been completed.

Berryfields - The Contract for 151 dwellings was commenced and the first six dwellings were scheduled for completion by the beginning of March, 1972.

St. Piran Close - One Warden's Quarters and nine of the 17 Old Peoples' dwellings were completed by the end of December and are proving a very successful project.

Barton Close - Five dwellings were nearing completion by the end of the year.

(b) Private

102 dwellings were completed and 75 were under construction at the end of the year.

Grants

Six Improvement and eight Standard Grants were approved during the year.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses within the Borough.

VII PREVALANCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The notified infectious diseases during 1971 comprised five cases of measles and two of pulmonary tuberculosis. The decline in the numbers of notified infectious diseases is most encouraging, but tuberculosis, both pulmonary and non-pulmonary continues to be notified in twos or threes each year.

Protective inoculations are available at Infant Welfare Centre , surgeries and schools. There is a high acceptance rate for all forms of prophylaxis, a factor which has certainly contributed, amongst other things, to the reduction in the rate of infeotious diseases. The routine vaccination of infants against small-pox has been abandoned.